



Newsletter

April 2024

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DC Preservation League Annual Membership Meeting & Reception

City Tavern Club | 3206 M Street, NW
Tuesday, May 14th | 6:30 to 8:30 PM



This event is free for DCPL Members | \$55 to Join
Registration Required
Questions? Email kelli@dcpreservation.org
www.dcpreservation.org

May 14, 2024

6:30 Doors | 7:30 Program

Parking: Limited Street Parking; Garages in the Area
Business Casual Attire

[Register to Attend](#)

Request for Proposals: The History of Affordable Housing in Washington, DC, with a Focus on Black Residents



Request for Proposals

Multiple Property Document and Associated Nominations

The History of Affordable Housing in Washington, DC,
with a Focus on Housing for Black Residents



April 2024



In 2022, the DC State Historic Preservation Office (DCSHPO) received a grant from the National Park Services' Underrepresented Communities Grant Program to underwrite the

production of a Multiple Property Document and Associated Nominations related to the history of affordable housing in Washington, DC, with a focus on housing for Black residents. DCSHPO contracted the DC Preservation League (DCPL) to manage this project that will catalyze nominations to both the DC Inventory of Historic Sites (DC Inventory) and the National Register of Historic Places (National Register).

This project will research and document the historical forces of development that created affordable housing (both public and private) and also those that influenced the location of such housing within the District. The historic context will provide general background information on housing from the layout of the city in 1791 to the election of the city's Home Rule government in 1974, but will concentrate in more detail on 20th century housing programs for lower-income African Americans during the era of segregation.

A note about the term "affordable" housing: Although it is a contemporary term, affordable housing has existed through time. For over two centuries, lower-income residents of the District of Columbia have strived to find housing that they could afford. Whether it be a modest rural residence, an inner-city alley house, a multi-family flat, or a rowhouse, affordable housing has come in many forms since the establishment of the city in 1791. The history of affordable housing is one driven by the formerly enslaved and free African Americans, immigrants, and the working class: in short, the people who built DC. While many of the places they built or the places where they worked—namely the city's many government buildings and institutions—survive and are recognized historic landmarks, many of the places where they lived are gone or threatened.

An informational Q&A session will be held on April 23, 2024, at 12:00 pm EST ([click this link to join via Zoom](#)). Proposals should be submitted to [Kelli Knox \(kelli@dcpreservation.org\)](mailto:kelli@dcpreservation.org) by 11:59 pm EST, May 19, 2024.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

New and Returning HPRB Members Confirmed by DC Council

On April 2, 2024, the DC Council confirmed 2 new Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) members and 2 returning HPRB members. The new members of the board are architect Patrick Williams and architectural historian Bill Marzella. Board Member Williams' term will expire in July 2025, while Board Member Marzella's term will expire in July 2026. Gretchen Pfaehler and Andrew P. Aurbach will both be returning for another term, which will expire in July 2027. These four will join Chair Marnique Heath and Board Member Matthew Bell.

These confirmations occurred at a critical time, as vacancies had led to a lack of a quorum in recent months. Thus, HPRB was unable to meet in February and March, creating a backlog of pending cases. The board is next meeting on April 25, 2024.

The nine-member board still has three vacancies, including no archaeologist. An archaeologist is needed, as this professional position is required by the National Park Service. Additionally, there are no members from wards 1, 2, 7, or 8. **Would you like to serve on HPRB or do you know a good candidate? Email DCPL at info@dcpreservation.org.**

Unique Eats: A Conversation About DC Restaurants

Thursday, April 25th, 12:00 - 1:00 pm
Virtual/Webinar

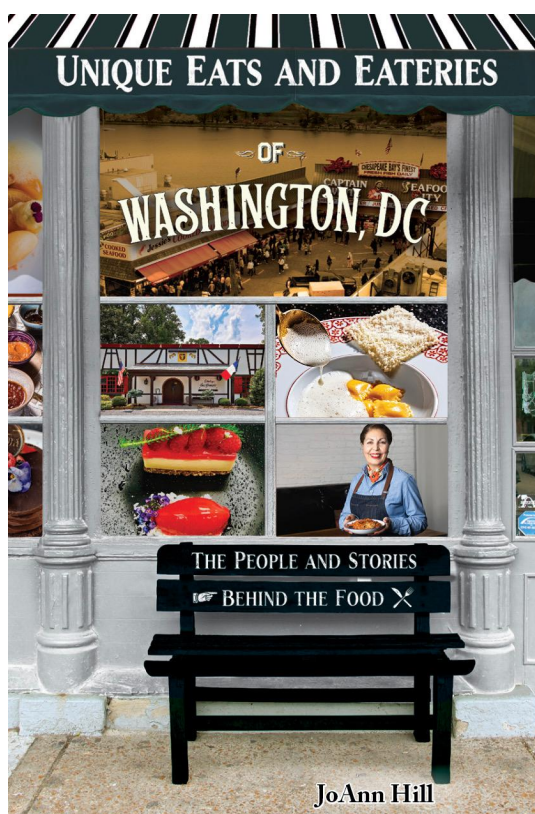


Image of JoAnn Hill's most recent book available for purchase, courtesy of JoAnn Hill.

Join local author JoAnn Hill and DCPL's Programs Manager Shae Corey as they discuss the restaurant landscape of Washington, DC. Combining the history of longstanding businesses with more recent additions to the food scene, JoAnn Hill has recently published *Unique Eats & Eateries: The People and Stories Behind the Food*. Her book contains fascinating information about restaurateurs and the life of business owners in DC. This conversation will address questions of business ownership, restaurant history, and where to grab the best bite in DC.

This program is free and open to the public. Please register online to participate.

[Register Here](#)

Alleyways of DC: Walking Tour

Saturday, May 4th, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

In-Person, starts at Christ Church (F Street Terrace and G Street SE)



Exterior of an alleyway structure now being used as an art studio. Photo courtesy of Shae Corey.

Alleyways have long been a feature of DC's built environment, hidden behind the high-style facades of the city's thoroughfares. These often-unseen spaces ultimately became centers of African American community and resilience. Despite congressional intervention to halt alleyway construction, the city had over 3,300 alleyway dwellings by 1912. Additionally, many city residents used alleyways for stables, garages, and warehouses. In the 1930s, alleyways were once again targeted - this time by the Alley Dwelling Authority - which resulted in the displacement of Washingtonians and the loss of historic fabric. Luckily, thanks to grassroots activism and changing views on alleyways, many alley buildings and structures were saved from demolition in the postwar era. These unique structures have since been preserved and rehabilitated. Join DCPL's Community Outreach & Grants Manager Zachary Burt to visit some of the remaining alleyways of the Capitol Hill Historic District, which continue to house and serve Washingtonians decades after their original construction. This tour will cover between 1.5 to 2.0 miles in the Capitol Hill Historic District, which has the most alley buildings and structures of any DC historic district.

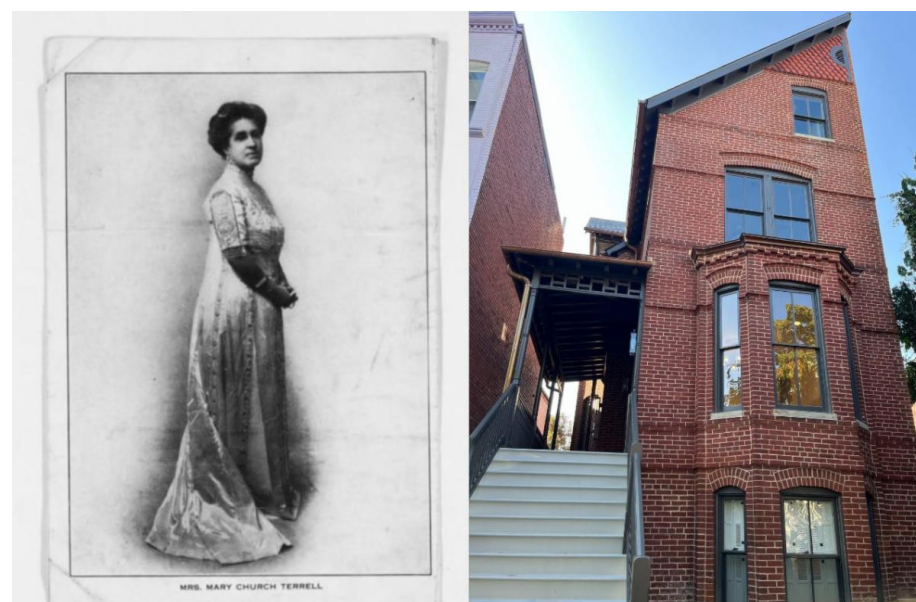
This program has a ticket cost of \$15.00 for DCPL Members and a ticket cost of \$25.00 for non-members. Please register online to reserve your spot!

[Register Here](#)

DCPL Member Event: Mary Church Terrell House Tour

Thursday, May 9th, 4:00 - 6:00 pm (Timed Entry)

In-Person



The DC Preservation League invites its members to visit the newly-restored Mary Church Terrell House on Thursday, May 9th from 4:00 - 6:00 pm.

After 24 years on the DC Preservation League's "Most Endangered Places" list, the Mary Church Terrell House has officially been saved and is ready for visitors.

All DCPL Members must register for a 20-minute time slot between 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm. Slots will be first come, first serve. Register for this event online and the link to sign up for a time slot will be included in your confirmation email.

Questions? Email Kelli Knox at kelli@dcpreservation.org

[Register Here](#)

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